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PROGRAM Jack Anderson Confidential

STATION WJLA-TV
Syndicated

DATE October 9, 1982 7:30 P.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT U.S. Military Aid to Egypt/Scandal

JACK ANDERSON: Last week I disclosed before these cameras a major scandal. I reported that millions of dollars had been stolen from U.S. military aid to Egypt. Top Egyptian political figures and former CIA and Pentagon officials allegedly are implicated.

The day after the program was aired, Egyptian security forces arrested the one Egyptian witness who had agreed to appear on camera. Here's what he had told my associate Dale Van Atta in Cairo.

DALE VAN ATTA: Have millions of dollars been stolen from the U.S. military assistance program to Egypt?

MOSSAD BADRA: For sure.

VAN ATTA: Who stole it?

BADRA: The Minister of Defense.

VAN ATTA: Named?

BADRA: General Kamal Hassan Ali.

VAN ATTA: And what is he now?

BADRA: He is the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

ANDERSON: That was Mossad Abu el-Kir Badra as he appeared on this show last week. He's a man of extraordinary courage. He'd been warned to keep his mouth shut, but he dared to name the powerful Egyptian Foreign Minister. U.S. sources

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tell me that Badra has been thrown into one of Egypt's notorious prisons. The fear is that he'll be tortured until he recants his story. But I already have his story on film. Here's more of it.

VAN ATTA: You're saying that Kamal Hassan Ali, the Foreign Minister of Egypt today and the Defense Minister then, personally lied to you about this contract?

BADRA: He was lying to the American and to the Egyptian owners of the company, not me alone.

ANDERSON: Apparently it isn't safe in Egypt to embarrass the Foreign Minister. He sent me a denial. From other sources, it was hinted that the authorities would go easier on Badra if I played up the denial. He called the charges malicious lies. He challenged -- I'm quoting -- any person or party to prove the charges.

Well, I accept the challenge. I say to the Egyptian government release Mossad Badra.

The last thing he told my associate Dale Van Atta was this -- I'm quoting. The American authorities must investigate this.

Well, they're doing exactly that. So I urged the Egyptian government to let Badra come back to the United States and testify.